

## PRE

To PREVENT. *v. a.* [from *prævenio*, Lat. *prevenio*, Fr.]

1. To go before as a guide; to go before, making the way easy.

Are we to forsake any true opinion, or to shun any requisite action, only because we have in the practice thereof been prevented by idolaters. *Hooker, b. v. f. 12.*

Prevent him with the blessings of goodness. *Psalms xxi. 3.*

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour. *Common Prayer.*

Let thy grace, O Lord, always prevent and follow us. *Common Prayer.*

2. To go before; to be before; to anticipate.

Mine eyes prevent the night-watches, that I might be occupied in thy words. *Psalms cxix. 4.*

The same officer told us, he came to conduct us, and that he had prevented the hour, because we might have the whole day before us for our business. *Bacon.*

Nothing engendered doth prevent his meat:

Flies have their tables spread, ere they appear;

Some creatures have in winter what to eat;

Others do sleep. *Herbert's Temple of Sacred Poems.*

Soon shalt thou find, if thou but arm their hands,

Their ready guilt preventing thy commands;

Couldst thou some great proportion'd mischief frame,

They'd prove the father from whose loins they came, *Pope.*

3. To preoccupy; to preoccupy; to attempt first.

Thou hast prevented us with offerings of love, even when we were thine enemies. *King Charles.*

4. To hinder; to obviate; to obstruct. This is now almost the only sense.

They prevented me in the day of my trouble; but the Lord was my upholder. *Psalms xviii. 18.*

I do find it cowardly and vile,

For fear of what might fall, so to prevent

The time of life. *Shakespeare, Julius Caesar.*

Thy your sincerest care could not prevent,

Foretold so lately what would come to pass. *Milton.*

Too great confidence in success is the likeliest to prevent it; because it hinders us from making the best use of the advantages which we enjoy. *Atterbury.*

To PREVENT. *v. n.* To come before the time. A Latinism.

Strawberries watered with water, wherein hath been steeped sheep's dung, will prevent and come early. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

PREVENTER. *n. f.* [from *prevent*.]

1. One that goes before.

The archduke was the assailant, and the preventer, and had the fruit of his diligence and celerity. *Bacon.*

2. One that hinders; an hinderer; an obstructer.

PREVENTION. *n. f.* [from *preventum*, Lat.]

1. The act of going before.

The greater the distance, the greater the prevention; as in thunder, where the lightning precedeth the crack a good space. *Bacon.*

In might or swift prevention. *Milton.*

2. Preoccupation; anticipation.

Attentions, plots, orders, preventions, success or loss. *Shakespeare.*

3. Hindrance; obstruction.

Half way he met

His daring foe, at this prevention more

Incens'd. *Milton.*

Prevention of sin is one of the greatest mercies God can vouchsafe. *South's Sermons.*

4. Prejudice; prepossession. A French expression.

In reading what I have written, let them bring no particular gusto or any prevention of mind, and that whatsoever judgment they make, it may be purely their own. *Dryden.*

PREVENTIONAL. *adj.* [from *prevention*.] Tending to prevention. *Diarr.*

PREVENTIVE. *adj.* [from *prevent*.]

1. Tending to hinder.

Wars preventive upon just fears are true defensives, as well as upon actual invasions. *Bacon.*

2. Preservative; hindering ill. It has *of* before the thing prevented.

Physick is curative or preventive of diseases; preventive is that which, by purging noxious humours, preventeth sickness. *Brown.*

Procuring a due degree of sweat and perspiration, is the best preventive of the gout. *Arbutnot.*

PREVENTIVE. *n. f.* [from *prevent*.] A preservative; that which prevents; an antidote.

PREVENTIVELY. *adv.* [from *preventive*.] In such a manner as tends to prevention.

Such as fearing to concede a monstrosity, or mutilate the integrity of Adam, preventively conceive the creation of thirteen ribs. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PREVIOUS. *adj.* [from *prævious*, Lat.] Antecedent; going before; prior.

By this previous intimation we may gather some hopes, that the matter is not desperate. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

Sound from the mountain, previous to the storm,

Rolls o'er the muttering Earth. *Thomson.*

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PREVIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *previous*.] Beforehand; antecedently.

Darting their stings, they previously declare

Design'd revenge, and fierce intent of war. *Prior.*

It cannot be reconciled with perfect sincerity, as previously supposing some neglect of better information. *Fidler.*

PREVIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *previous*.] Antecedence.

PREY. *n. f.* [from *præda*, Lat.]

1. Something to be devoured; something to be seized; food gotten by violence; ravine; wealth gotten by violence; plunder.

A garriſon ſupported itſelf, by the prey it took from the neighbourhood of Aylebury. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

He whole included race his purpoſ'd prey. *Milton.*

She fees herſelf the monſter's prey, *Dryden.*

And feels her heart and intrails torn away.

Pindar, that eagle, mounts the ſkies,

While virtue leads the noble way;

Too like a vulture Boileau flies, *Prior.*

Where fordid int'reſt ſhews the prey.

2. Ravage; depredation.

Hog in ſloth, fox in ſtealth, lion in prey. *Shakeſp.*

Animal of prey, is an animal that lives on other animals.

There are men of prey, as well as beaſts and birds of prey, that live upon, and delight in blood. *Leſtrange.*

To PREY. *v. n.* [from *præda*, Lat.]

1. To feed by violence. With *on* before the object.

A lion'eſs

Lay couching head on ground, with cat-like watch,

When that the ſleeping man ſhould ſtir: for 'tis

The royal diſpoſition of that beaſt

To prey on nothing that doth ſeem as dead. *Shakeſp.*

Put your torches out;

The wolves have prey'd, and look the gentle day

Dapples the drowly caſt. *Shakeſp.*

Jove venom ſift inuſ'd in ſerpents fell,

Taught wolves to prey, and ſtormy ſeas to ſwell. *May.*

Their impious folly dar'd to prey

On herds devoted to the god of day. *Pope.*

2. To plunder; to rob.

They pray continually unto their faint commonwealth,

or rather not pray to her, but prey on her; for they ride up

and down on her, and make her their boots. *Shakeſp.*

3. To corrode; to waste.

Language is too faint to ſhow

His rage of love; it preys upon his life;

He pines, he ſickens, he deſpairs, he dies. *Addiſon.*

PREYER. *n. f.* [from *prey*.] Robber; devourer; plunderer.

PRIAPISM. *n. f.* [from *priapismus*, Lat. *priapismus*, Fr.] A preternatural tenſion.

Luſt cauſeth a flagrantcy in the eyes and priapiſm. *Bacon.*

The perſon every night has a priapiſm in his ſleep. *Flyer.*

PRICE. *n. f.* [from *prix*, Fr. *præcium*, Lat.]

1. Equivalent paid for any thing.

I will buy it of thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto the Lord my God, of that which coſt me nothing. *2 Samuel xxiv. 24.*

From that which hath its price in compoſition, if you take away any thing, or any part do fail, all is diſgrace. *Bacon.*

If fortune has a niggard been to thee,

Devote thyſelf to thrift, not luxury;

And wiſely make that kind of food thy choice,

To which neceſſity confines thy price. *Dryden.*

2. Value; estimation; supposed excellence.

We ſtand in ſome jealouſy, left by thus overvaluing their ſermons, they make the price and eſtimation of ſermons, otherwiſe notified, to fall. *Hooker.*

Sugar hath put down the uſe of honey, inſomuch as we have loſt thoſe preparations of honey which the ancients had, when it was more in price. *Bacon.*

3. Rate at which any thing is sold.

Suppoſing the quantity of wheat, in reſpect to its vent be the ſame, that makes the change in the price of wheat. *Locke.*

4. Reward; thing purchased at any rate.

Sometimes virtue ſtarves, while vice is fed;

What then? is the reward of virtue bread?

That, vice may merit; 'tis the price of toil;

The knave deſerves it, when he tills the ſoil. *Pope.*

To PRICE. *v. a.* To pay for.

Some ſhall pay the price of others guilt;

And he the man that made faulſ ſoy to fall,

Shall with his own blood price that he hath ſpilt. *F. Queen.*

To PRICK. *v. a.* [from *prick*, Saxon.]

1. To pierce with a small puncture.

Leave her to heav'n,

And to thoſe thorns that in her boſom lodge,

To prick and ſting her. *Shakeſp. Hamlet.*

There ſhall be no more a pricking brier upon the ſide of

Israel, nor any grieving thorn. *Ezekiel xxviii. 24.*

If ſhe prick'd her finger, Jack laid the pin in the way. *Arb.*

2. To form or erect with an acuminated point.

The poets make fame a monſter; they ſay, look how

many feathers the hath, ſo many eyes ſhe hath underneath,

ſo many tongues, ſo many voices, ſhe pricks up ſo many

cars. *Bacon's Eſſays.*

A hunted

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A hunted panther caſts about

Her glaring eyes, and pricks her liſt'ning ears to ſcout. *Dry.*

His rough creſt he rears, *Dryden.*

And pricks up his predeſtinating ears.

The fiery courſer, when he hears from far

The ſprightly trumpets and the ſhouts of war,

Pricks up his ears. *Dryden's Virgil's Georg.*

A greyhound hath pricked ears, but thoſe of a hound hang

down; for that the former hunts with his ears, the latter

only with his noſe. *Grew.*

The tuneful noiſe the ſprightly courſer hears,

Paws the green turf, and pricks his trembling ears. *Gay.*

Keep cloſe to ears, and thoſe let aſſes prick;

'Tis nothing—nothing; if they bite and kick. *Pope.*

3. To fix by the point.

I cauſed the edges of two knives to be ground truly ſtrait,

and pricking their points into a board, ſo that their edges

might look towards one another, and meeting near their

points contain a rectilinear angle, I faſtened their handles to-

gether with pitch, to make this angle invariable. *Newton.*

4. To hang on a point.

The cooks ſlice it into little gobbets, prick it on a prong

of iron, and hang it in a furnace. *Sandy.*

5. To nominate by a puncture or mark.

Thoſe many then ſhall die, their names are prick'd. *Shakeſp.*

Some who are prick'd for ſheriffs, and are hit, ſet out of

the bill. *Bacon.*

6. To spur; to goad; to impel; to incite.

When I call to mind your gracious favours,

My duty pricks me on to utter that,

Which elſe no worldly good ſhould draw from me. *Shakeſp.*

Well, 'tis no matter, honour pricks me on;

But how if honour prick me off, when

I come on. *Shakeſp. Henry IV.*

His high courage prick'd him forth to wed. *Pope.*

7. To pain; to pierce with remorse.

When they heard this, they were prick'd in their hearts,

and ſaid, men and brethren what ſhall we do? *Acts ii. 37.*

8. To make acid.

They their late attacks decline,

And turn as eager as prick'd wine. *Hudibras, p. ii.*

9. To mark a tune.

To PRICK. *v. n.* [from *pricken*, Dutch.]

1. To dress one's self for show.

2. To come upon the spur. This seems to be the sense in

Spenser.

After that Varlet's flight, it was not long,

Ere on the plain fast pricking Guyon sped,

One in bright arms embattled full strong. *Fa. Queen.*

A gentle knight was pricking on the plain,

Yclad in mighty arms of silver shield. *Fa. Queen.*

They had not ridden far, when they might see

One pricking towards them with hasty heat. *Fa. Queen.*

The Scottish horsemen began to hover much upon the

English army, and to come pricking about them, sometimes

within length of their staves. *Hayward.*

Before each van

Prick forth the airy knights. *Milton.*

In this king Arthur's reign,

A lusty knight was pricking o'er the plain. *Dryden.*

PRICK. *n. f.* [from *pricken*, Saxon.]

1. A sharp slender instrument; any thing by which a puncture is made.

The country gives me proof

Of bedlam beggars, who, with roaring voices,

Strike in their numb'd and mortified bare arms

Pins, wooden pricks, nails, sprigs of rosemary. *Shakeſp.*

It is hard for thee to kick againſt the pricks. *Acts ix. 5.*

If the Engliſh would not in peace govern them by the law,

nor could in war root them out by the ſword, muſt they not

be prick'd in their eyes, and thorns in their ſides. *Davies.*

If God would have had men live like wild beaſts, he would

have armed them with horns, tuſks, talons or prick'd. *Bramb.*

2. A thorn in the mind; a teasing and tormenting thought; re-

moſe of confidence. *Shakeſp. Henry VIII.*

My confidence firſt receiv'd a tenderneſs,

Scruple, and prick, on certain ſpeeches utter'd

By th' biſhop of Bayon. *Shakeſp. Henry VIII.*

3. A spot or mark at which archers aim.